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## CLAIMS:

1. A method of controlling pests, such as insects, by trapping and/or killing them wherein at least a part of a pest to be trapped or killed is exposed a composition comprising particles containing or consisting of at least one magnetic material.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the particles have an average particle size diameter in the range of from 2 to 100µm.
3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the magnetic material is a ferromagnetic oxide.
4. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the particles are applied to a surface in an area in which pests are present, preferably a surface which is inclined to the horizontal.
5. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the composition comprised at least 10% by weight of magnetic particles.
6. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the particles are composite particles which comprise a core of an inert substrate which is impregnated with and/or coated with the magnetic material.

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7. A method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the core comprises silicon dioxide, magnesium silicate, diatomaceous earth, cellulose or a natural or synthetic polymer.

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8. A method as claimed in claim 6 or claim 7 wherein the inert substrate has a pesticide or behaviour modifying chemical impregnated thereon or associated therewith.

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9. A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the pesticide is an insecticide, fungicide, acaricide, insect growth regulator or chemosterilant.

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10. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein the pesticide is a bacterium, virus or fungus.

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11. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein the behaviour modifying chemical is a pheromone.

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12. A method as claimed in any one of claims 7 to 11 wherein the pesticide or behaviour modifying chemical comprises at least 0.1% by weight of the cores of the particles.

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13. A pesticidal composition in particulate form which comprises composite particles each comprising a core of an inert substance having a pesticide or behaviour modifying chemical impregnated thereon or associated therewith and the core being impregnated or

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coated with a magnetic material.

14. A pesticide composition as claimed in claim  
13 wherein the core comprises silicon dioxide,  
5 magnesium silicate, diatomaceous earth, cellulose or a  
natural or synthetic polymer.

15. A pesticidal composition in particulate form  
which comprises particles containing or consisting of  
10 a magnetic material in admixture with a pesticide or  
behaviour modifying chemical or particles of a  
magnetic material coated with a pesticide or behaviour  
modifying chemical.

15 16. A pesticide composition as claimed in any  
one of claims 13 to 15 wherein the pesticide is an  
insecticide, fungicide, acaricide, insect growth  
regulator or chemosterilant.

20 17. A pesticide composition as claimed in any  
one of claims 13 to 15 wherein the pesticide is a  
bacterium, virus or fungus.

25 18. A pesticide composition as claimed in any  
one of claims 13 to 15 wherein the behaviour modifying  
chemical is a pheromone.

30 19. A pesticide composition as claimed in any  
one of claims 13 to 18 wherein the pesticide or  
behaviour modifying chemical comprises at least 0.1%  
by weight of the cores of the particles.

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20. A pesticide composition as claimed in any one of claims 13 to 19 wherein the magnetic material is a ferromagnetic oxide.

5           21. An insect trap which comprises a housing, a zone of the housing or a zone within the housing comprising a magnetically polarized material and the said zone being coated with a composition comprising particles containing or consisting of a magnetic  
10 material of opposite polarity to that of the magnetically polarized material.

          22. An insect trap as claimed in claim 21 wherein the zone of the magnetically polarized  
15 material is formed by a portion of at least one wall of the housing.

          23. An insect trap as claimed in claim 21 or claim 22 wherein the zone of the magnetically  
20 polarized material comprises a removable insert placed within the housing.

          24. An insect trap as claimed in claim 21 or claim 22 wherein the zone has a surface which is  
25 inclined to the horizontal.

          25. An insect trap as claimed in any one of claims 21 to 24 wherein the magnetic material is a ferromagnetic oxide.

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          26. An insect trap as claimed in any one of claims 21 to 25 wherein the said zone is coated with

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particles of a posticidal composition as claimed in  
any one of claims 13 to 20.

5 27. A method as claimed in claim 1 substantially  
as hereinbefore described with reference to any one of  
the Examples.

10 28. An insect trap as claimed in claim 21  
substantially as hereinbefore described with reference  
to and as illustrated in Figures 1A, 1B and 1C of the  
accompanying drawings.